

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The specific gravity (apparent density) of a porous form obtained by the sintering method is a close relationship with the specific gravity (apparent density) of a preform if other conditions are identical. The higher the specific gravity (apparent density) of the preform, the higher the specific gravity (apparent density) of the porous form using the same is. It can ~~say~~ be said from this fact that the pressurization is a step for determining the specific gravity (apparent density) of the porous form. Where the specific gravity (apparent density) of the preform obtained by the pressurization step is set up at the above-specified range, a porous form having a specific gravity (apparent density) of about 0.28-0.74 (porosity: about 20-70%) is obtained although slightly varying depending on conditions of the subsequent steps. The porosity can be calculated from the specific gravity (apparent density) of the preform or porous form according to the following equation:

$$\text{Porosity (\%)} = \{1 - (\text{Apparent specific gravity})/(\text{True specific gravity of UHMWPE})\} \times 100\%$$

(2) Please replace the second full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The time required for sintering is appropriately determined according to conditions, such as size of the preform and sintering temperature, and is usually about 3-6 hours. The sintering time in other sintering methods is about 48-72 hours. From this fact, it can be understood that this sintering method is a production method with high production efficiency. After sintering,

the ~~perform~~-preform is cooled to obtain the desired porous form. To prevent generation of cracking, etc., of the porous form due to quenching, cooling by allowing the preform to stand at room temperature is preferable for the cooling.